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Minutes, August 26, 2015

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Aug 26, 2015 General Education Committee meeting; 4-5pm Olin 304

Present: Brian Katz (chair), Xiaowen Zhang, Mike Egan, Kelvin Mason, Mamata Marmé, Lisa Seidlitz, Rob Elfline, Rachel Weiss, Sarah McDowell, Jeffrey Ratliff-Crain (XO), Jaime Nordling, Lendol Calder. [NOTE: Student representatives had not yet been designated at the time of this meeting]

Approve minutes Marmé moved, Weiss 2nd—approved

NEW BUSINESS

I. Ashford U request:

In response to closure of physical campus, they are requesting a waiver for the 60 credit residency requirement—still need to maintain core curriculum.

What is the role of GenEd with transfers? Courses transfer, and if they fit with courses taught and accepted that have designators.

GEC can respond to any other transfer accommodations for this situation or respond to individual questions brought if/when individual students transfer. At this time, the committee

II. LEAP challenge:

AAC&U's clarification of liberal education, HIPs (high-impact practices), etc.—The LEAP Challenge refers to “signature work”—each student should have an integrative opportunity to pull full work together. Augustana has been invited as part of AVD grant to develop. How to turn this from collection of separate opportunities/courses, to more cohesive whole is the goal.

This grant provides possible way for us to do this.

* Focus on “employers” in document raised some concern; content good, but language may need to be tweaked (e.g., leadership, engagement) rather than career-oriented. The career outcomes are an external pressure that may be shaping some of the language.

* Quotation on p. 8 of LEAP brochure—which also emphasizes the “marketplace”—Is it part of *Augustana 2020* and CORE? Others see not—that there's discovery of self.

* How different from what we already have? 1) Current SIs are disciplinary rather than integrative; 2) not sure all SIs connected to real-world problems, but original was “SI for the common good”—not just an academic exercise. Task-1 of the committee is to look into extent that original vision of SI is happening. The original SI documents were very outward looking as well as integrative.

* Not just SI but other, full aspects of GEC. Also brings to mind the portfolios—but what extent is all integration folded into SI?

* Ways to use LCs? Since by design integrative and/or applied—but may need to be part of the broader curriculum.

III. Planning 2015-16:

ICC, LPs, assessment—all are part of agenda over past three years; LC numbers. Other ideas?

* Assessment: wait 'til HLC visit?

- * The 9 SLOs: Gen Ed is critical for students to meet all
- * Can we better tell the story?

How do we build consensus on campus about the vision? Possible methods:

- * Involve small groups outside committee—what are concerns, to be able to provide input from faculty; identify themes.
- * Develop more video interviews such as conducted last spring. Subcommittee to pursue?
- * Extract (factor analyze) common story using multiple media
- * First-year students and retraining out of “get these out of the way” idea of core curric., -- how are FY advisors given info.?

IV. LSFY name change to FYI:

Nominated from subcommittee, second: S. McDowell.

What are reservations of those voting against among LSFY faculty (3/4 yes, ¼ no)? Some desire to keep “liberal” in name; no alternatives offered. Provides parallel to SI (First Year Inquiry), but does “FYI” make the sequence appear trivial?

Puts focus on “inquiry.”

More dislike of “LSFY” as a term or default to old “LS”. Was this earlier name change brought for full faculty vote?

Vote to approve name change: Motion Passed

V. Announcements:

Number of students needing LC courses in their senior year has not been substantively reduced by the changes made in LC definitions. While there are spaces available in currently offered courses, only 9 fewer seniors than last year (156 seniors) will need LC courses yet this year. This will require 2-4 additional sections for Spring to meet the need.

VI. CFE & events

Upcoming events are relevant to the LEAP signature work initiative (**LEAPing Into Signature Work** - Thursday 9/3 9:30-10:30am in Gävle Room 1, Signature Work and the Core Curriculum – Thursday 9/10 4:30-5:30 Wilson Center). The Sept. 10 event is co-hosted by GEC.

VII. Next agenda-

Agenda will focus on new course proposals.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by J. Ratliff-Crain